

THE Trumpet

The monthly newsletter of the Office of the State Fire Marshal



The Trumpet—April 2013

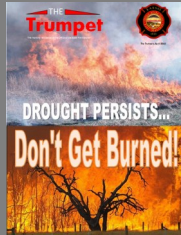
DROUGHT PERSISTS...

Don't Get Burned!

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



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@ksfiremarshal

[From the Fire Marshal]

March Madness continues into April with Kansas being well represented in the national tournament. Our congratulations go out to Wichita State, KU and K-State on a well played and successful season. We wish Wichita State continued success in the Final Four!

The Fire Marshal's office also has some cheering to do, as we celebrate our Centennial this month! The Office of the State Fire Marshal began operation on April 1, 1913. Read more about our agency's history on page 6.



April is also the beginning of the spring burning season in Kansas. As farmers and ranchers use burning as a land management tool during this month, the smell of smoke will be heavy in the air at times and the night sky will be aglow - especially over the Flint Hills as hundreds of acres are burned making room for new growth. Due to the persistent drought conditions that exist throughout Kansas, our office has issued a burn advisory and encourage farmers and ranchers to delay burning fields and pastures for a season if at all possible. Read more on page 8.

Finally, April is the beginning of the spring season and a good time to do some spring housekeeping tasks. This is a time to check your smoke alarms and be sure everyone in the home knows what the family emergency plan consists of as well as where to meet in the event of an emergency evacuation. In addition, this would be a good time to review your family communications plan in the event something happens that separates family members.

As we move into nicer weather, just stay fire safe and know your OSFM is ready and willing to be of assistance, we are only a phone call or email away.

Sincerely,

Doug Jorgensen
Fire Marshal

THE
Trumpet

April 2013

Fire Marshal

Doug Jorgensen

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Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

Trumpet Deadline

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal *Trumpet* or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos or other information, please contact Kevin Doel. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

By the Numbers

There are currently **197** certified fire investigators throughout the State of Kansas (see related story on page 12)

Candle with care - **42** candle fires are reported each day, 20% or 1/5th are unattended

While nationally the number of Meth Lab incidents reported increased, in Kansas they decreased by **31** during 2012 (see related story on page 13).

[PEOPLE & PLACES]

Honoring Retiring Russell City Fire Chief, Sam Schmidt



OSFM Investigators Rod Oldridge and Jason Reece had the opportunity to present a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring Russell City Fire Chief Sam Schmidt, who retired March 1.

Schmidt has served in the Russell Fire Department since 1980.

OSFM Welcomes New Administrative Officer, Amanda Clayton



Amanda Clayton has joined the OSFM staff as its new Administrative Officer in charge of supervising the front desk reception staff, tracking vehicle logs, and office record keeping.

Amanda comes to OSFM from the Department of Revenue, where she worked in the Title & Registration Division. She is a Navy veteran, having served as a Police Officer for four years.

Interesting fact about Amanda: she is a collector of crazy pens!

OSFM Recognizes Robert Lovell, Retiring KCK Fire Marshal



On March 29, 2013, Rose Rozmiarek, OSFM Chief of Investigation, presented retiring Kansas City, Kansas Fire Marshal Robert Lovell with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of leadership and service to the Kansas City Fire Department.

Lovell worked for KCFD for 31 1/2 years, starting as a fire fighter and working his way up to Fire Marshal.

Congratulations Robert!

Fort Riley Receives IMCOM Fire Department of the Year

The Fort Riley Fire Department was named the Installation Management Command Medium-Sized Fire Department of the Year for 2012.

“We are ecstatic,” said Bryan Frayser, deputy chief, Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services, Directorate of Emergency Services. “We do a lot of great, positive things here.”

The award recognizes “the most outstanding medium-sized fire department for achieving the highest degree of excellence in mission support and fire protection management,” according to the award description.

One of the key elements of the fire department’s success is the support it receives from the 1st Infantry Division and U.S. Army Garrison Fort Riley leadership, Frayser said.

“We have a lot of support coming from those directions, which allows us to provide our service to the Fort Riley community,” he said. “Without their support, that could never happen.”

In 2012, FES responded to 4,842 emergency calls.

“That’s roughly 13 calls a day,” Frayser said. “We stay pretty busy.”

On top of emergency calls, the department also is busy with prevention and public

outreach programs, like fire extinguisher training, fire marshal training, fairs and festivals, safety days and other community events.

“We have an excellent fire prevention and public education program,” Frayser said. “We touched over 41,000 individuals last year just in our fire prevention program ... We’re reaching out with our community partners.”

Additionally, the department keeps its staff in top form with myriad training programs. From rescue and career development certifications, to fire academy and developmental training, the department clocked about 17,000 training hours in 2012.

“We’ve raised the bar on our training requirements,” Frayser said. “We’re busy training, but we’re also out still touching the public because that’s the people that we support. That’s why we’re here.

That’s what we love to do.”

By partnering with surrounding communities in a mutual aid program, the department has made an impact beyond the gates, he said.

“If (a partner) has a house fire off post and we’re closer, like in Ogden, they can call us, and we’ll go over there,” Frayser explained.

Similarly, if Fort Riley needs

assistance fighting a fire on one of the ranges, for example, they can call on a mutual aid partner for backup.

“It’s a mutual back and forth,” Frayser said.

FES also grew its fleet last year, with the addition of six new vehicles, three of which are wildland type trucks.

Supporting a population that has nearly doubled over the past five years, FES has risen to the task.

“When the population doubles, we’re going to be out there more,” Frayser said.

In addition to having the support of division and garrison command teams, the dedication of its staff played a huge role in the department’s success, according to Scott Delay, fire chief, FES.

“The willingness of our employees, along with the support of their Families to make sacrifices in order to maintain levels of service to the Fort Riley community, (has) been extraordinary,” wrote Delay in an annual report. “I want to personally thank all the Families, men and women of (the department) for their support and commitment to excellence.”



Celebrating 100 Years of the OSFM

By Elena Nuss

Times have changed so much -- yet so little. Our first State Fire Marshal, Harrison Parkman, hit the ground running when the office opened on April 1, 1913. He immediately divided the department into five areas: fire prevention, education, inspection, statistics and incendiary investigation.

The intent of the prevention division was to prevent fires through a reduction in carelessness that would likely reduce the number of fires. The inspection division was short of staff so Parkman established a good working relationship with the Labor and Hotel Departments and local fire departments to increase the number of properties inspected. He found then as we have found today, that most owners are willing to clean up problem areas once they were made aware of the hazards.

The education division was to produce the Fire Prevention Bulletin to be used in all public schools, to write newspaper articles, and do on-site lectures to groups on the organization of fire prevention associations. Then there was the statistics division which consisted of a secretary who handled, among her other duties, the collection of reports from local fire departments.

Finally, just like today, was the investigation division which was charged with the investigation of fires. It was in that first full year that SFM Parkman's investigators logged 72 incendiary fires in the first full year with 16 convictions of thirty-six arson suspects.

The agency has had 26 state fire marshals appointed by their Governors and charged with the fire and life safety of Kansans. The

majority of these individuals received Senate confirmation, although a handful in recent years were only interim appointments. Of

these appointments, Kansas was the first state to ever have a woman appointed by a Governor as Acting State Fire Marshal. Mrs. Elsie Smith was tapped to complete the unexpired term of Robert Wolfe.

The Office still conducts inspections, working with local jurisdictions, property owners and operators to correct hazardous condi-

tions. We still investigate fires working with local jurisdictions to determine the origin and causes, identifying criminal activity and assisting in prosecution when warranted. The Office continues to do education of both the general public and the regulated community and continues to collect data from local jurisdictions. The newest function of the agency that was not part of the original agency duties is the identification and mitigation of hazardous materials incidents.

Today's fire departments respond to much more than just fire incidents. The majority of their calls are emergency medical incidents. To date for 2012, over 213,000 incidents have been reported by our local jurisdictions, with nearly 20,000 fires reported. The most important difference we see today is the reduced number of people who die in fires. In 2012 there were 30 fatalities which is too many, but much better than the first nine months of 1913 when Kansas reported 117 fire fatalities. So much has changed in 100 years, but much is still the same.



Harrison Parkman



Governor Brownback's Proclamation Recognizes 100 Years of Service by the OSFM

On March 10, 1913, the Kansas Legislature passed the bill creating the Office of the State Fire Marshal, which was signed by Governor George Hodges. On March 22, 2013, Governor Sam Brownback signed a Proclamation recognizing 100 Years of Service of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Those in attendance at the signing ceremony in the Governor's Ceremonial Office included the current Fire Marshal, Doug Jorgensen, plus four former Fire Marshals: Ed Redmon (1977 – 1988, 1992 – 1995), Jack Alexander (2004 – 2007), Dan McLaughlin (2011), and Terry Maple (2011-2012). Others in attendance included division chiefs Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigations; Brenda McNorton, Chief of Prevention, Dan Thompson, Chief of Hazardous Materials; Karl McNorton, former Chief Deputy Fire Marshal, and Kevin Doel, the agency's current Public Information Officer.



Proclamation:

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the citizens and guests of the Great State of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosions and accidents involving hazardous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Fire Marshal is devoted to cooperate and work hand in hand with both State and Federal fire and life safety services across the state; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is devoted to improving the quality of life of Kansans through public education on fire safety, inspection of properties in which citizens dwell and congregate, and investigation of incidents involving fire and hazardous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Fire Marshal has been protecting the lives and properties of Kansans since 1913 and pledges to continue to pursue its mission in order to better serve the citizens and guests of the Great State of Kansas:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sam Brownback, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby recognize March 2013 as the

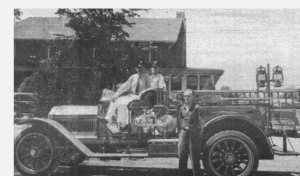
100th Anniversary of the Office of the State Fire Marshal

and urge all citizens to celebrate the Agency's past successes while looking forward to the continuing responsibility of the agency to keep the citizens of the state safe from fire, explosion and hazardous material incidents.

What else was new in 1913?



The Model T Ford American LaFrance fire truck was introduced in 1913. It came with two chemical tanks, a 12-foot ladder, two oil lanterns, two axes and a 50-foot rubber hose.



The price of the new fire truck was \$1,775. Many of these trucks were in service until the mid to late 30's.



Be Wary of Burning this Season!

It's that time of year again when farmers and ranchers across Kansas perform prescribed burning and brush burning on their properties. Due to the persistent drought conditions across Kansas, our office and the Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council are together issuing a joint burn advisory for this summer.

While the past few weeks have brought an increase in moisture to the area, it has not been enough to create safe conditions for outdoor burning. Continued drought conditions combined with high wind speeds, low relative humidity, and other weather factors will produce unsafe conditions for burns this season.

"If possible, we encourage delaying burning for another year so that the conditions for safely burning fields or brush will not be as likely to produce fires that burn out of control and put lives and property at risk," says Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal.

In cases in which prescribed burning is essential this year, the OSFM and Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council offer the following tips and best practices to help ensure a burn doesn't become a wildfire:

- Know all state and local fire restrictions. Check with county officials who are charged with deciding whether burning is

permissible based on local conditions.

- Notify neighbors as a courtesy prior to burning.
- Postpone the burn if unsure of the fuel and weather conditions.
- Have adequate resources and equipment available to prevent escaped fires.
- Consider smoke management to avoid unsafe roads and air quality conditions.
- Do not burn to the ends of the field. Setting boundaries, "back burning" and keeping the fire off of fence rows will prevent out-of-control burns.

Kansas experienced extreme fire behavior in 2012, with more than 41,000 acres burned and 26 structures lost from wildfire by the end of summer. The Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council has collaborated with a national fire prevention and education team to provide expertise and guidance for wildfire prevention, with the ultimate goal of reducing human-caused fires.



Flint Hills Rancher Bobbie Hammond manages 30,000 acres. (photo by Kansas.com)

Safety Tips for Field Equipment

Field equipment is a significant cause of accidental human-caused fires. Landowners can reduce the chances of causing a wildfire by taking simple precautions to ensure that their equipment does not cause a spark.

- Get an early start. Mowing and harvesting operations should be conducted during the morning hours. After 12 noon, temperatures rise, humidity drops, and winds increase—prime wildfire conditions.
- Keep equipment clean and free of debris. Use an air compressor to blow all dust off machinery. Clean belly pans before you head out.
- Inspect equipment to make sure there aren't any parts rubbing or bearings going out that could cause friction and create a spark.
- Make sure spark arresters are in place as required and in proper working order.
- Repair fluid leaks immediately.
- Take frequent breaks to give bearings a chance to cool down and to check for debris trapped near heat sources and clear it away.
- Park on bare ground when fueling equipment. Use recommended fuels and do not "top off" fuel tanks.
- Hot exhaust pipes and mufflers can easily start fires that you may not see until it's too late.
- When baling hay, remove any loose hay trapped around rollers—the friction can build up heat and start a fire.

Propane Licensing Requirements

By Brenda McNorton, Chief of Prevention

We are quickly approaching the 2013 licensing season, and with this new season we have made some changes that will affect this year's licensing requirements and what you as the licensee will need to provide our office to make the licensing season go as smoothly as possible.

One of the largest requests from our office this licensing season will be that you ensure we have your properly documented training dates and that you are current with the refresher training requirements. As we begin preparing for the 2013 season, we are noticing problems with companies not having current refresher training or companies not having the training for all license classes they hold, as required by KSA 55-1812. This year the OSFM will not process any licenses until we have received all of the proper documentation on your training requirements. When you are filling out your application this year please make sure you are up-to-date with your certifications and you have provided our office with a copy of the most current certification.

Reminder, with the exception

of Class 8 (Installation and Service) license, the statute only requires one person from the company to be certified for each of their facilities licenses, so please do not send duplicate certifications, as it only adds to the



confusion.

Another situation that has come to our attention is that license holders of Class 4 (Cylinder Filling) and Class 5 (RV or Mobile Fuel Containers) are using their propane supplier's Class 1 dealer's license to meet the dealer licensing requirements. Our legal counsel from the Attorney General's office has advised that current Statutes and Regulations are very clear in that both of these classes must carry a Class 1 license if they sell propane, regardless of who owns the dispensing and storage equipment. In addition, the Class 1 training certification is also required, and this documentation must be sub-

mitted to our office before a Class 4 or Class 5 license can be issued.

We are working with PMAK and the Attorney General's Office to change the education and training portion of the regulation for Class 4 and Class 5 licenses. However, at this time we have been advised that we must enforce current law. We realize this change will cause additional education to be taken by facilities; however, at this time our agency is unable to modify these requirements.

A final positive change! We can now accept VISA and MasterCard credit/debit cards with no additional transaction fees to our customers. The OSFM has also updated the online propane renewal forms to allow customers to fill them out online, print, sign, and email the forms to the OFSM. The Affidavit of Compliance form no longer needs to be notarized by a Notary Public. This change allows all renewal forms to be conveniently sent to us via email. The OFSM highly encourages customers to submit their application via email to help expedite the renewal process.

Changes for 2013 Licensing of Propane Facilities

Training Documentation

Make sure you have copies of your properly documented training dates and that you are current with your training. Training is required by KSA 55-1812. This year OSFM will not process any licenses until we have received all of the proper documentation on your training requirements. Reminder, the statute requires that only one person from the company to be certified, so please do not send multiple certifications, as it only adds to the confusion.

Changes for 2013 Licensing Class 4 & Class 5:

Previous years we have not been requiring Class 4 and Class 5 to carry a Class 1 license. After consulting the Assistant Attorney General who represents our agency, we have been advised that the current Statutes and Regulations are very clear in that both Class 4 and Class 5 must carry a Class I license, which also includes training certification requirements.

TOP 5 Causes of Fire...Then & Now

In the second annual report of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the top cause of fires were defective flues, followed by sparks, stoves, matches, and kerosene.

This past year the **Top 5** known causes of fires were:

1. Open flame
2. Ember
3. Cooking
4. Suspicious Incendiary
5. Electrical distribution; other heat, flame, spark; and smoking.

A great deal has changed but much has stayed the same because one hundred years ago we didn't see many fire causes listed that these: drunkard, toy balloons, fumigating, smoking meats and smoking mosquitos, things that may not be as common today.

[Fire Prevention News]

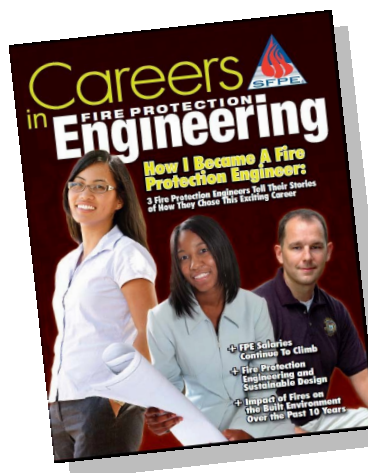
Why Use a Fire Protection Engineer

In today's construction environment of technological advances, new materials, reduced budgets, compressed timelines, and increased complexity, it is more important now than ever to work smarter, not harder. In many instances, working smarter may mean brining in specialized experts to do what they do best in an effort to help the overall team increase efficiency. One of these specialized experts is a Licensed Fire Protection Engineer (FPE)¹. An increasing number of projects are requiring building code and life safety related knowledge and expertise beyond the experience of the typical architect or engineer (A/E).

The typical A/E is a skilled and licensed design professional, but oftentimes their wheelhouse is not in the life safety arena and they are not as familiar with the nuances of the building code, life safety code and associated documents which provide options and alternatives, including materials, design and methods, to satisfy the minimum life safety requirements of the code.

The wheelhouse of a FPE is the life safety arena. In fact, that is their sole focus and what they work with and study every day. Having this focus allows them to excel and elevate their expertise in not only evaluating architectural plans to ensure compliance with applicable codes, ordinances, and standards, but also in installation of all types of fire protection systems, safety practices which may include hazardous solids, liquids or gases, the nature and char-

acteristics of fire and related hazards, manual and automatic fire detection and alarm systems, the effects of fire and fire effluents on buildings, and fire prevention. Another aspect in which the FPE is skilled is the nature of and expected human response to an emergency condition and the related impact to safety of building occupants.



In addition, the FPE understands the hazards and risks associated with fire, how fires originate, develop and spread, and fire control and suppression systems and practices. The FPE is well versed and adapted to interpret federal, state and local codes, ordinances and standards pertaining to fire protection. The FPE can evaluate fire suppression and fire

alarm system shop drawings to ensure compliance with the design criteria. In a complex or unusual design scenario, the FPE can perform and produce documentation regarding fire and smoke modeling utilizing mathematical methods recognized by the International Code Council and the National Fire Protection Association. In certain instances, the FPE serves as a third party review asset for the Authority Having Jurisdiction or for the original A/E design team to add further credence to the overall design.

A Licensed Fire Protection Engineer is the top technical professional in the field of fire and life safety design and construction, and must be seriously considered and fully utilized to increase the efficiency, accuracy, and reliability of the design team in new and existing building design and construction projects of all kinds.

Fire Proof Your Prom

Prom season is upon us, and with this hallmark event come a variety of fire and life safety hazards.

The OSFM wants to remind school administrators and student or parent organizations involved with prom party planning to keep safety first and foremost on their list of goals.

“Prom dances are a special part of the high school experience, and our work to keep students safe doesn’t end when the school day ends,” says Brenda McNorton, Chief of Prevention. “Students and parents decorating for the event may create a dangerous situation without even realizing it.”

There are certain key points to remember when planning your school’s prom and post-prom activities:

- Make sure all exits are accessible and free from impediments. Also, make sure that all exit signs can be clearly seen and aren’t hidden by any decorations.
- The minimum clear width in exit corridors must be maintained at six feet.
- Combustible materials



Photo by Kirkhart Studios

like paper or fabric can not make up more than 20% of ceilings and walls, unless the material meets an appropriate level of flame resistance.

- Highly flammable materials (hay bales, etc.) can not be used inside for any reason.
- Abide by all established occupancy limits. If you're not sure how many people a space can safely hold, ask!
- Do not hang any decorations (fabric, steamers, posters, etc.) from sprinkler pipes.
- Maintain a minimum of 18" between sprinkler heads and any prop or decorations placed underneath it.

- Check the fire alarm system to make sure it's functioning properly.

In addition to these requirements, use these common sense measures as well:

- If special lights are being used, examine the cords to make sure they aren't frayed and are in good working order.
- Don't overload circuits, and follow manufacturer directions when using Christmas tree lights, extension cords, and power strips.
- Plan ahead for emergencies: if the tornado sirens sound or some other emergency occurs, have a plan to get students to safety.

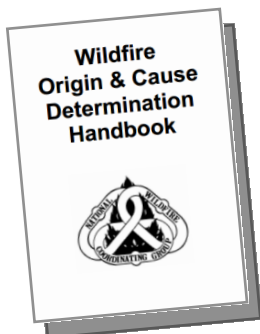
By keeping safety in the forefront of planning, we can all make sure prom nights across Kansas end in excitement instead of tragedy.

[Fire Investigation News]

Wildland Fire Origin and Cause FI-210 course

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is hosting the Wildland FI-210 course in Manhattan, Kansas April 8-12, 2013. A grant was also obtained to pay the tuition cost for attendees from State or Local agencies. This is one of the few times this course has been held in Kansas if not the first.

Wildland fires result in tremendous devastation of public resources and private property. The increasing frequency of these types of fires



has brought on a need for additional, specially trained fire investigators. This course is based on the recently developed certification standards and training programs for wildland fire investigators put in place by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

This program culminates in a six hour practical exercise where students work as a team to investigate and document a wildland fire case. Teams will determine the fire origin, collect evidence, conduct interviews, and document the case.

A special thanks goes out to the Manhattan Fire Department for providing a training facility and the Kansas State University Forestry Service for assisting in locating areas for the practical exercises.

There is currently over 20 students registered for the training course.

Certified Fire Investigator Program Turns

While the OSFM celebrates its Centennial this year, the Certified Fire Investigator program will also reach a significant milestone this year. In 1983 it was recognized that individuals who investigate the origin and cause of fires throughout the state was dealing with a complex investigation of the crime of arson. Most of these investigators were with local fire departments. A need was determined to allow these specialized investigators some law enforcement authority and

to have the tools to successfully put arsonists in prison. In 1983 there was only a handful of certified fire investigators when the program first was implemented. The Kansas regulations for the program have only been modified three times since the inception. This program has grown over the years, as various fire departments grew.

There are currently 197 certified fire investigators in local agencies throughout the state.



1-Day Training for First Responders in Eastern Kansas Presented by Office of State Fire Marshal Investigative Personnel

LOCATIONS

April 23 — Hiawatha
Brown County Sheriff's Office, 709 Utah
Contact Investigator Randy Linck, 785-742-7125

April 24 — Paola
Paola Fire Dept.
202 E Wea
Contact Wally Ferguson, 913-731-9696

April 25 — Independence
Independence Civic Center
410 N. Penn Ave.
Contact Police Chief Harry Smith, 620-332-1700

Explosives are used in a wide range of criminal activity nationally and internationally. With the changing times and ever-increasing number of explosive incidents, all first responders, fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, and emergency management personnel must be aware of and be able to recognize the materials used — including the safety precautions they need to take.

[Haz-Mat News]

Meth Labs and First Responders

In the past decade, the problem of clandestine drug labs has skyrocketed as the meth markets spread from rural areas to the suburbs and into the cities.

Starting on the West Coast, they rapidly spread across the country and have surged in the Mid-

west with Missouri reporting the highest number of labs.

These meth labs manufacture a highly addictive drug whose reach has cut across all segments of society, from soccer moms trying to lose weight, to businessmen trying to stay awake, to back alley druggies searching for the next high. These labs can be located in every geographic and socio-economic area.

They can be found in houses, motels, cars, vans, mobile homes, barns, storage facilities, boats, campgrounds, woods and even in backpacks. These labs are generally very mobile.

As the number of drug operations expands so do the hazards to the community. Areas

that suffer a high amount of meth abuse tend to suffer an increase in domestic abuse, child abuse, unemployment and violence.

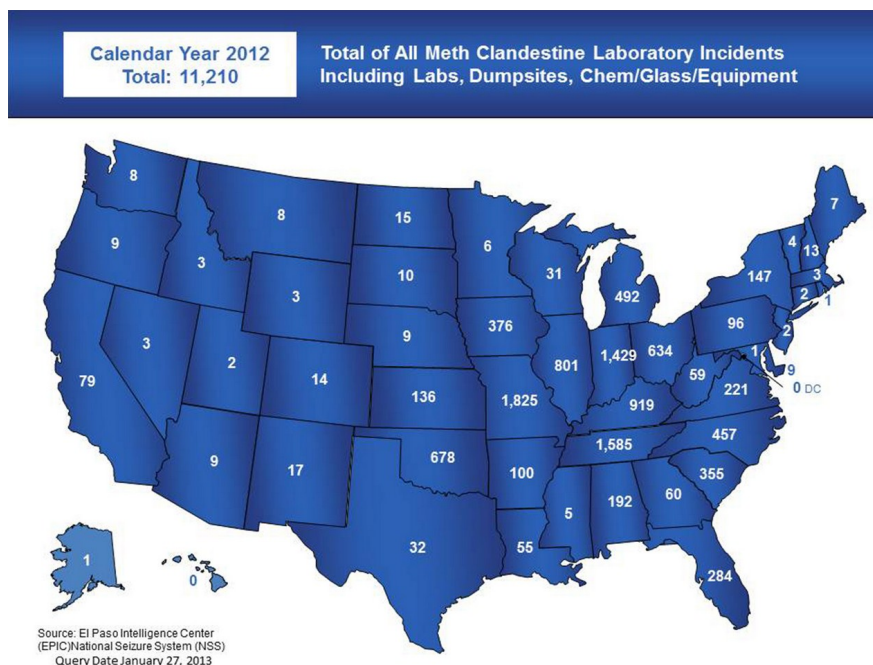
The table below shows the

total number of all meth clandestine laboratory incidents nationwide including labs, dumpsites, chemical, glassware and

equipment incidents by year

Meth Lab Incidents		
Year	Nationwide	Kansas
2012	11,210	136
2011	10,287	167
2010	11,868	148
2009	10,822	147
2008	7,334	150
2007	6,095	100
2006	8,181	184
2005	12,974	398

from 2004 to 2011. The table also shows the number of incidents in Kansas. The map at the top of the page shows the number of labs by state for 2012.



How to Identify a Meth Lab

- Unusual, strong odor (like cat urine, ether, ammonia, acetone or other chemicals)
- Residences with windows blacked out.
- Renters who pay their landlords in cash.
- Excessive traffic in and out of the residence at unusual times.
- Excessive trash including large amounts of items such as antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, stained coffee filters, drain cleaner, and duct tape.
- Unusually large amounts of clean glass containers being brought into the location.
- Secretive/protective area surrounding the residence (video cameras, alarm system, guard dogs, reinforced doors, electric fencing).
- Persons exiting the residence to smoke.
- Little or no mail, furniture and no newspaper delivery.

Firefighters conduct exercise to test emergency response



As victims from a downed helicopter sought medical attention, a building smoldered in the background.

"This is our little playground," said Ivan May, lead inspector, Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services, Directorate of Emergency Services, as he swept his hand across the scene.

The scene was a fake.

The 'playground' – a lot at Camp Funston that houses a helicopter shell, a three-story building and more – served as training ground for a large-scale internal Directorate of Emergency Services exercise March 7.

"Every day, we're out training at least pieces of everything," May said.

"These exercises are what we use to coordinate all those pieces together."

The exercise was based on a scenario of a severe thunderstorm with lightning strikes that ignited brush fire, downed a helicopter and set a building on fire.

"The aircraft went down, and this is where the simulated crash was," May said. "After that, the structure fire came into play."

The exercise, which took place toward

the end of a two-week fire academy training, gave new arrivals the opportunity to integrate with more seasoned Fort Riley firefighters.

"We're trying to pull our new recruits into this scenario," May said. "We've been training them on the small scale of running their company operations, and this will give them a chance to see how we operate on a large-scale event."

Jonathan Valente, firefighter, FES, DES, was a firefighter in the military and arrived at Fort Riley about a month ago.

"All of us new guys to this base do have plenty of firefighting experience, but we are all new to Fort Riley," Valente said.

"It was nice to work with them to see how they work on this base."

Valente said each fire department has its own way of doing certain things.

"The fundamentals are still the same ... But (each base) has their own quirks, has their own way of doing a certain entry or certain knock down."

"For the most part, all of what I've done in the past with my experience is about the same as it is here, just a few little things that are different, but not in a bad way," he added. "It's all good learning."

Valente, along with four other new arrivals, was assigned to fight the structure fire with the FES team.

"I went to the door, made entry, went up the steps to the second floor ... did a quick search of the room, found no victims, then did a right-handed search pattern for the next room. We did a quick thermal-imaging camera overview to make sure there was nobody lying down. Once we found out there was no victims inside that room, we went ahead and knocked out the fire that was in that particular room," Valente said. "It was pretty

fun."

As firefighters dealt with the structure fire, other responders tended to 'victims' of the simulated helicopter crash.

"(One) of the biggest pieces is to practice doing our response," May said. "We show up on scene. We analyze what the situation is, what resources we need to mitigate the situation. If there's any victims involved, trying to get the victims to a safer area, rescue them, triage them if necessary. If there's critically injured, making arrangement to transport them."

Additionally, teams practiced setting up a command post to ensure a seamless flow of information.

"We've got our command structure for DES set up running the command ... Information gets channeled through our command staff," May said. "The main command post will have all of our frequencies in ... That way, if we've got one situation that's getting taken care of and we've got extra resources, we can reallocate those resources to another incident if we need to."

The playground itself enables the DES to train on a variety of scenarios, from aircraft rescue firefighting, or ARF, which can include engine, cabin and cockpit fires, to structure firefighting, which can include confined space rescue, ventilation, search mazes, rappelling and rope rescue.

All of the training is in service to helping the community.

"We show up and try to make a bad situation as good as it can be," May said. "Whether it's putting out the fire or if it's a medical call, trying to render aid and get some proper care for people. Basically just going out and helping people and trying to make a situation better."

Clearing Up Password

Confusion for NFIRS

Users:

Since the new password rules have been implemented, there has been some confusion as to what the actual requirements entail and more importantly, what the system will accept as a valid password. Passwords should be at least 8 characters in length and contain letters, numbers and a special character.

The special characters accepted by the system are: ~ ! \$ % ^ * () - _ + = [] ; : . / < >

Passwords are case sensitive.

Passwords may not begin with a number.

The following special characters/symbols can be used anywhere in your new password: ! \$ % * (- _ ~ = [] ; : . \ < >

The following special characters/symbols can only be used at the beginning of a password or within the password but not as the last character in your new password: +

The following special characters/symbols cannot be used at all in your new password: ^ & # @ { } | ?

Some examples of valid passwords:

password1%
-newpass1
pass-word1
newpass1_
newpass+1
=newpass1
new=pass1

Grilling Safely is Well Done!

Article provided by the National Association of Fire Prevention



There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

Safety Tips

Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.

The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

Never leave your grill unattended.

Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Charcoal Grills

There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.

If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Propane Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.

If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas taken and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 15 minutes before re-lighting it.

Support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial



In 2001 legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica is housed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal where it is on view. The OSFM also transports the replica to fire service events across the state.

Please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund
Attn: Eldred Wenger, DFM
900 SW Jackson Street, Room 600
Topeka, KS 66612